Scheduling

Many core courses are offered through Livingston High School on different ability levels: General, College Preparatory, Honors, and Advanced Placement. It is important for students to consider their interests, abilities, and time constraints when selecting a course schedule and especially a course level. One Honors or AP course might work with a rigorous sports schedule, but three AP courses might negatively impact a student’s life. Remember that courses should be selected based on individual abilities and needs.

**General classes** are based on the recommendation of the Child Study Team for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). These courses are designed to accommodate various learning needs and differences. Specialized instruction is an imperative within these classes, helping students to achieve their individualized goals and objectives while providing instruction that targets the curricular standards for the subject.

**College Preparatory (CP) classes** are the standard college preparatory level courses requiring students to work independently and have strong organizational skills.

**Honors Level (H) courses** require advanced facility with reading, written and spoken language. Strong organizational skills and the ability for a student to work independently are required. Students are challenged to think abstractly and to demonstrate a facility with problem-solving skills in honors level classes. Students are expected to engage in independent study and learning.

**Advanced Placement (AP) courses** follow a national curriculum that presents college-level work to high school students. AP courses require advanced facility with reading, written and spoken language. The pace of these courses requires advanced skills related to work ethic, and thinking and reasoning skills. Students are encouraged and expected to take the AP level exam in the subject studied; however, taking the AP exam is not a requirement. AP courses are demanding and require a high amount of independent study and learning on the part of the student.

Open Access

Livingston High School is committed to providing all students equal access to curriculum and courses. Encouraging students to enroll in challenging courses provides the opportunity for students to raise their achievement levels, ensure postsecondary success, and work readiness.

Classes are offered at various levels of difficulty. Students are supported in taking rigorous courses at the Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) level in areas where they have interest or career aspirations. Past performance and student success in a subject area are key indicators of future success.

LHS offers open access for all students to take Honors and AP courses. These courses follow a rigorous curriculum extension of the college preparatory course and often require higher levels of workload, including extensive independent study by the students. Teachers make recommendations from required applications and qualifying assessments to guide students to select the most appropriate program and course level. In considering these recommendations, students and parents are encouraged to select an appropriate course load that balances curriculum demands with a healthy, well-rounded lifestyle.
School Counselors are available to assist and support students and parents throughout the scheduling process. Students are encouraged to communicate with their teachers about recommendations, as well as with their parent in preparation of selecting their courses with their School Counselor.

**Honors and AP Courses**

Parents and students should consider every Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors course selection carefully to ensure success and avoid dramatic schedule changes. Students are expected to maintain the pace of an Honors or an AP course throughout the year. Students who earn a grade below a C- during the first marking period in an AP or Honors course will have the option of switching into the lower-level course, but they will not be moved automatically. Communication will be prioritized in making this decision and will include teachers, school counselors, and/or administrators meeting with students and families to assist individuals in making good decisions and determining a plan for moving forward in the school year. In specific cases, administrative discretion will be used as necessary, including decisions regarding future scheduling. Students choosing to drop the course at the end of Marking Period 1, during the last schedule change window, will have a Withdraw, “WP” or “WF,” noted on their transcript for the dropped class.

All AP students who have taken the AP exam may be exempt from taking a final exam. Students need to have a B- or better average for the marking periods. If a project is given in lieu of a final exam in an AP course, there will be no exemptions from this project. Conditions for completing a project and criteria for evaluating it are left to the professional discretion of the AP teacher.

**Course Availability**

It is advisable that students consider additional/alternate course options during their scheduling process in the event that a course may not be offered or fit into their schedule. A course may not be offered during a given school year for many reasons (see below). Conversely, student schedules and/or graduation requirements may also impact whether or not a student can enroll in a given course.

- Class sizes limits. Limits are established in order to provide optimal educational opportunities for students, and the district makes every attempt to adhere to these limits.
- Low enrollment.
- Budgetary constraints.

In order to provide the broadest program possible to meet the individual needs of students, a wide selection of electives is available in all subject areas. Most of these courses are offered on a full-year basis; however, there are also semester course offerings.

For information regarding level changes, please see the [Schedule Change Procedures section](#).